THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It was decided by the Government to treat Cellular calls between Mumbai and Maharashtra, Kolkata and West Bengal, Chennai and Tamil Nadu Service areas of Cellular and Unified Access Service Licences and all basic and cellular calls between Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) Service areas as intra service area calls. BSNL is treating such calls accordingly.

(b) The merger of circles is not same as the concept of a National Flat Rate for mobile and fixed landline calls.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has announced an alternate One India Tariff Plan package w.e.f. 01.03.2006.

(e) Consequent to announcement of One India Plan by BSNL and MTNL, no player, private or otherwise has represented opposing 'One India' concept as an alternate tariff package.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Fall in profits of MTNL and BSNL

2116. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profits of MTNL and BSNL have fallen sharply during the last two years;

(b) the details of profits earned by these PSUs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the sharp fall in their profits; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that these PSUs do not become sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the profits of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have been rising during last two years. However, profits of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have fallen by 18.38% during 2004-05.

(b) The details of profits earned by MTNL and BSNL during the last three years are as follows:

Financial year	Profits (Rs. in crores)	
	MTNL	BSNL
2002-03	877.16	1444.44
2003-04	1150.48	5976.52
2004-05	938.98	10183.29

(c) There was no fall in the profits in BSNL. However, profit for the year 2004-05 decreased by 18.38% in respect of MTNL mainly on account of downward revision of Access Deficit Charges (ADC) and reduction of tariff.

(d) The following steps are being taken to ensure that these PSUs do not become sick:

(i) Modernizing and expansion of the network.

(ii) Revising the tariffs in line with the competition.

(iii) Exploring Joint Ventures with foreign companies.

(iv) Reduction of operating cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and also to increase productivity.

(v) Increasing revenue through value added services and increasing traffic during slack hours.

(vi) Maximum and early utilization of capacity of the network.

Imposition of fine on phone tapping

2117. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) propose to impose fine on phone tapping;